



News Finance Sports More



Top Stories: Federal Reserve chair frontrunner | Presidential turkey pardons | GOP governor in C

Apple Addict

Hyundai, Kia Sued for Alleged Child and Prison Labor at U.S. Supplier Plants

Rex Sanchez

Wed, November 19, 2025, 2:30 PM EST
2 min read



Generate Key Takeaways

A new lawsuit alleges that Hyundai Motor Group has benefited from labor exploitation within its U.S. supply chain, accusing Hyundai and Kia of relying on unlawful labor practices while selling vehicles to California public agencies. Filed by Jobs to Move America, the complaint seeks to halt Hyundai and Kia vehicle sales in California connected to the alleged labor abuses until the issues are fixed.

According to the lawsuit, unlawful practices—including child labor, forced labor, prison labor, and unsafe working conditions—are taking place at supplier facilities in Alabama and Georgia. The filing argues that these practices violate California’s Unfair Competition Law and contradict the companies' public image as a

“socially responsible” manufacturer, even as the defendants benefit from clean-transportation incentives in California, a state touted as a [leader in EV adoption and infrastructure](#).



Kia

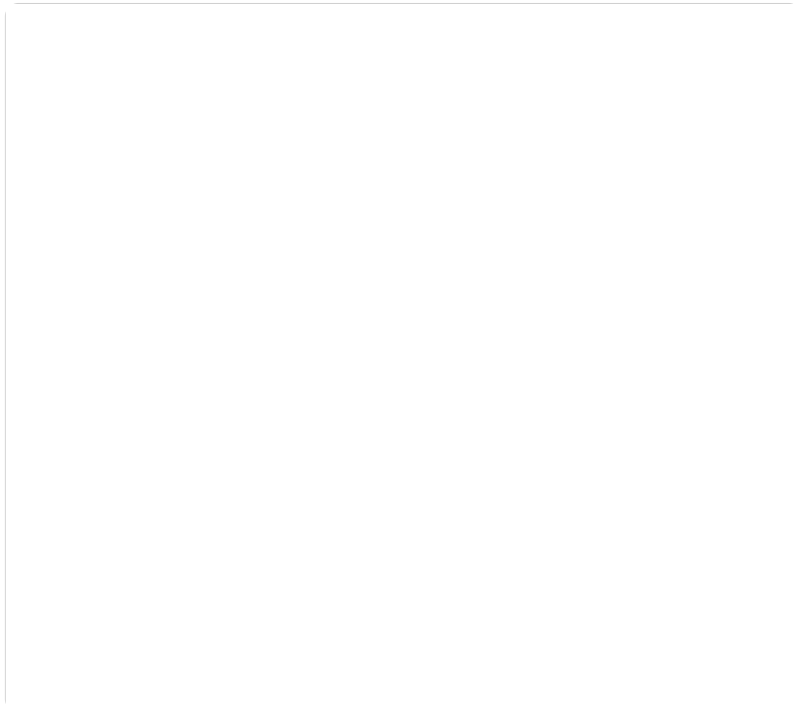
Hyundai’s U.S. electric lineup includes the Ioniq 5, Ioniq 6, and the three-row Ioniq 9, which competes directly with models such as the Tesla Model X and Rivian R1S. Meanwhile, Kia offers the Niro, EV6, and EV9.

ADVERTISEMENT

Beyond the alleged labor violations, the lawsuit argues these practices give the [South Korean automotive company](#) an unfair competitive advantage in California. By driving down labor costs through allegedly exploitative conditions, suppliers can produce parts more cheaply, allowing the brands to earn higher profit margins.

Hyundai has rejected the accusations, calling them “baseless,” stating (via [WTOC](#)):

“We prioritize the safety and well-being of our workforce above all else and remain fully compliant with all federal and state regulations. We require our suppliers and business partners to adhere to Hyundai’s strict safety, employment, and legal standards, and take decisive action when violations occur.”



[Hyundai](#)

The company also noted that it employs 4,500 people at its Alabama plant and has committed to hiring 8,500 workers at its Georgia facility by 2031.

The lawsuit comes in the wake of an immigration raid at Hyundai’s Georgia plant last September, which resulted in 475 detentions, many of them South Korean nationals on short-term visas, according to U.S. officials.

 [View comments](#)

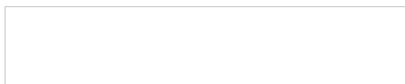
[Terms and Privacy Policy](#)

[Your Privacy Choices](#)

[MD Personal Data Use Notice](#)

[About Our Ads](#)

Recommended articles



Yahoo!

US

Politics

2024 Election

Terms and Privacy

Policy

Your Privacy Choices

Follow us on



Download our app

[World](#)

[Health](#)

[Science](#)

[The 360](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Originals](#)

[MD Personal Data Use](#)

[Notice](#)

[Help](#)

[Share Your Feedback](#)

[About Us](#)

[About Our Ads](#)

[Site Map](#)

© 2025 Yahoo. All rights reserved.